

REMARKS

In a Non-Final Office Action in the instant application dated December 7, 2009, the Examiner has proposed amendments to claims 1 and 35 as described on pages 2-4 of the Office Action.

Claim Amendments

In the interest of further prosecution, Applicant has amended claims 1 and 35 as described previously in this paper, without prejudice, based on communications with the Examiner and the Examiner's proposed amendments. Applicant has made additional minor amendments to the dependent claims to conform them to the amended independent claims.

Notwithstanding these amendments, Applicant specifically reserves the right to continue prosecution of any of the claims as previously presented, as well as other claims not presented, and does not concede the non-patentability of any previously presented claims in the instant application.

New Claims

Applicant has added new dependent claims 45-57, which are consistent with previously presented method claims 6-20. In view of the amendments to claims 1 and 35, Applicant believes that claims 45-57 are also in condition for allowance, and Applicant therefore respectfully requests that these claims also be allowed.

Concluding Comments

It is believed that all of the pending issues have been addressed in this paper. However, failure to address a specific rejection, issue, or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue, or comment.

Applicant respectfully requests consideration of the remarks herein prior to further examination of the above-identified application. The undersigned would of course be available to discuss the present application with the Examiner if, in the opinion of the Examiner, such a discussion could lead to resolution of any outstanding issues.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16, 1.17, and 1.21 that may be required by this paper, and to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-1283.

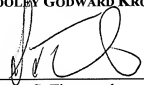
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